

March 4, 2015

FOIA Exemption 6



U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9 Drinking Water Protection Section, Mail Code WTR-#-2
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, California 94105

Attn: Nancy Rumrill

Dear Ms. Rumrill,

Thank you and your colleagues for taking the time to come to Florence, Arizona to listen to our concerns regarding the Florence Copper Mine.

We grew up in Tacoma, Washington, in the shadow of the Asarco plant. Every assurance was given that the plant would be monitored for hazardous emissions. Well, the history of that promise is documented in lost or changed forever lives. Some of our friends' parents grew gardens in the soil contaminated by Asarco. Unfortunately, they believed the hype that all would be well. They paid for that confidence in the company's truthfulness with their lives.

We are again hearing from the EPA that the Florence Copper project will be "monitored". Forgive us if we are skeptical. If Florence Copper, Inc. failed to provide test results that were less than favorable, i.e. 1997-1998 BHP pilot test, when requesting the test permit, why would we believe they would provide truthful test results from a pilot project? Not only did they not provide the information with the pilot test permit application, the EPA did not request or review that information.

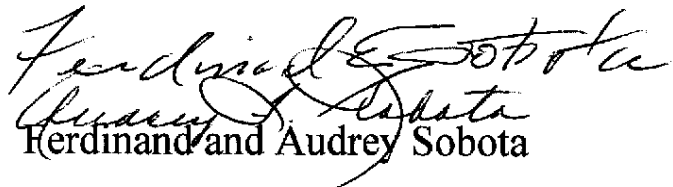
When previous owners of the mine anticipated mining this area, they owned the land and could control the wells that would be built. That is no longer the case. There are drinking water wells in the area and the aquifer is the source of drinking water for surrounding areas. This site literally sits in the middle of an incorporated community.

Florence Copper states that they will inject the toxic solutions below the aquifer that provides drinking water to the town of Florence and surrounding areas. Previous tests have shown that there is not only horizontal migration of solutions injected into the ground, but also vertical migration. If that happens, the acid solution could contaminate our aquifer. If that happens, we all lose.

One of the many issues that concern us is the possibility of a spill. With the tankers transporting the acid to the Florence Copper facility, it puts those of us that use Hunt Highway at risk. Hunt Highway is a two-lane road and is our only access in and out of our community. Almost every day in the news, there is a report of some kind of spill of oil or other hazardous material.

Please do not issue a test permit to Florence Copper, Inc. Keep the town of Florence safe from a contaminated water supply.

Respectfully,



Ferdinand and Audrey Sobota